



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,340	09/05/2003	Alfred Wenger	9092-0158	7803
25267	7590	04/18/2005	EXAMINER	
BOSE MCKINNEY & EVANS LLP 135 N PENNSYLVANIA ST SUITE 2700 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204				CYGAN, MICHAEL T
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2855		

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/656,340	WENGER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael Cygan	2855

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 12-18,20-37 and 39-67 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 44,45,49 and 50 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 12-18,20-37,39-43,46-48 and 51-67 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/844,013.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 28 February 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 20, 22-26, 28, 30-34, and 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

as being anticipated by Drahm (US 5,531,126). Drahm discloses the claimed invention, a vibration meter comprising a transducer assembly having a hollow (i.e., containing a lumen) flow tube [13] inserted into a pipe (see abstract) and clamped at the ends (Figures 1b,2b) to enable vibratory motion (column 3, lines 14-15), an electromechanical excitation element [20] responsive to adjustable frequencies (column 3, lines 58-64) producing

spatial deflections of the flow tube (column 3, lines 14-15), upstream and downstream electrodynamic (column 5, lines 48-50) sensors [18,19] responsive to lateral tube deflections and generating representative signals (column 3, lines 51-64), and meter electronics (Figures 4-8) generating excitation current (column 6, lines 43-46) and an evaluation circuit which takes the quotient of the excitation current (a friction value due to force applied in the transverse direction as disclosed at column 6, lines 43-45) and sensor signals (a flow speed estimate as disclosed at column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 4) to produce a viscosity value of the fluid flowing through the meter (column 7, lines 38-58 and column 8, lines 50+) in addition to mass flow and density values (column 6, lines 1-4). The viscosity is inherently a determination of damping due to the measuring tube being filled with fluid of a certain viscosity and the dummy tube having no measurement fluid. Note that a dummy tube is not a flow tube as claimed in claim 28. See also entire disclosure of Drahm.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 12, 14-18, 27, 35, 59, and 61-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drahm (US 5,531,126) in view of Drahm (EP 849,568 A1). Drahm '126 discloses the claimed invention except for the generation of torsions about the flow tube. The structural feature missing from Drahm '126 is a lever arrangement acting on the flow tube approximately at the midpoint (which causes torsions, see applicant's page 17, line 15 through page 18, line 2). Drahm '568 teaches the use of a lever arrangement (Figure 15) as an alternative form to a non-levered arrangement (e.g., Figure 2); see column 14, lines 10-13), which inherently produces torsional modes in addition to lateral modes (compare Figure 15 of the '568 reference to Figure 2 and explanatory text thereof of applicant's instant application). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a levered arrangement as taught by Drahm '568 in the invention of Drahm '126 to form the vibration means, since this would result in torsional modes which are well known in the flow art to be advantageously used for viscosity analysis.

3. Claims 21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drahm (US 5,531,126) in view of Van Cleve (US 5,661,232). The claimed invention is considered to be taught except for determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom. Van Cleve teaches determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom

in a Coriolis-type viscosity sensor; see entire document especially column 8 lines 48-59. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom as taught by Van Cleve (US 5,661,232) in the invention of Drahm '126 to determine viscosity, since this would result in a viscosity determination which is based upon current data and is compensated for actual measurement conditions.

4. Claims 36, 37, 39-43, 46-48, and 51-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drahm (US 5,531,126) in view of Drahm (EP 849,568 A1) as applied to claim 12, further in view of Van Cleve (US 5,661,232). Drahm '126 discloses the claimed invention except for determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom.

Van Cleve teaches determining density, velocity, and frictional forces from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom in a Coriolis-type viscosity sensor; see entire document especially column 8 lines 48-59. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom as taught by Van Cleve (US 5,661,232) in the invention of Drahm '126 to determine viscosity, since this would result in a viscosity determination which is based upon current data and is compensated for actual measurement conditions.

5. Claims 13 and 60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drahm (US 5,531,126) in view of Drahm (EP 849,568 A1) as applied to claims 12 and 59, further in view of Van Cleve (US 5,661,232). The claimed invention is considered to be taught except for determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom. Van Cleve teaches determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom in a Coriolis-type viscosity sensor; see entire document especially column 8 lines 48-59. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use determining density from a sensor value and determining viscosity therefrom as taught by Van Cleve (US 5,661,232) in the invention of Drahm '126 to determine viscosity, since this would result in a viscosity determination which is based upon current data and is compensated for actual measurement conditions.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-18, 28-37, and 39-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
7. Applicant's arguments filed 25 February 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As the Office has consistently made clear during the prosecution of this application and its parent application, the determination of

viscosity is determined from the excitation current and from the sensor signal.

As stated previously in the parent application, "Applicant argues that Drahm '126 does not teach use of excitation current to determine the viscosity of the fluid. Applicant correctly agrees that the viscosity is determined from diode [52]. Applicant states that the output of diode [52] is not the excitation current; however the claim requires only that the viscosity be determined from the excitation current. Diode [52] receives a voltage from the excitation coils [34,37] of the system [30] used to excite the dummy tube and therefrom the measurement tube; see column 8, lines 55+ and column 7, lines 38-45. This voltage results from the excitation current applied to the coils by system [30]. Therefore, the determination of viscosity is determined from the excitation current". In applicant's most recent response, applicant presents the section of Drahm '126 with underscoring to highlight the relevant parts. However, applicant eschewed analysis of that section in view of the rejection and merely presented a conclusory statement asserting that the reference did not teach the claimed invention. This is not persuasive.

8. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time

the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971). The suggestion to combine is found in the knowledge of persons of ordinary skill in the art as presented in the rejection. The fact that both references which are being combined have a common inventor (Drahm) should be a further indication of the obviousness of their combination.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 44, 45, 49, and 50 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2175. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL CYGAN, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER